BEFORE THE Federal Communications Commission RECEIVED

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In the Matter of)	FEDERAL COMMANDE AND
Revision of the Commission's)	
Rules to Ensure Compatibility)	•
with Enhanced 911 Emergency)	
Calling Systems)	DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

COMMENTS OF THE CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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SUMMARY

The Petition filed by the Ad Hoc Alliance for Public Access to 911 ("Alliance") asks the Commission to amend its rules to require cellular carriers to promptly connect all E911 calls without precaution and to require that all newly constructed mobile units be equipped to select the strongest signal whenever a call is placed. Even though CTIA and its members support the goal of broadening the availability of enhanced 911 ("E911"), the two proposals advanced by the Alliance , if adopted, will actually thwart this goal. Therefore, CTIA urges the Commission to reject Alliance's petition.

The Alliance Petition completely ignores the

Commission's proposal to limit service to "service

initialized" users. In fact, by granting the Alliance

Petition, the FCC would allow for the continued abuse of

E911 systems and services. Moreover, both wireless carriers

and the public safety community are unanimous in their

support for the Commission's proposal to limit 911 service

to "service initialized" users.

In addition, there is no basis for Alliance's claim that cellular carriers are making it virtually impossible for "roamers" to obtain 911 service. CTIA's members support

the provision of 911 access to all service initiated CMRS customers, including customers who are roaming. Alliance provides no evidence to indicate that denial of roamer access to 911 is a problem. Nor does Alliance provide a single example of any actual problem in the provision of roamer access nor provide any basis for the Commission to conclude that the denial of roamer access is an issue requiring Commission action.

Alliance's proposal to revise Commission rules to require that all newly constructed mobile units be equipped to select the strongest signal reflects a misunderstanding of how CMRS networks control power levels and hand-off calls to provide reliable communications. CMRS networks are designed to provide reliable communications over a broad range of power levels; they are not designed, as Alliance proposes, to hand-off calls between carriers as the mobile unit moves toward and away from the strongest signals. The Alliance proposal would harm, not help, the reliability of emergency communications.

BEFORE THE Federal Communications Commission WASHINGTON, D.C.

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In the Matter of)		
Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility	•	CC Docket 94-102	
with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems) }		

COMMENTS OF THE CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association ("CTIA")¹ respectfully submits its comments in response to the Petition for Rulemaking filed by the Ad Hoc Alliance for Public Access to 911 ("Alliance").² As summarized in the Public Notice, Alliance³ contends that 911 cellular

CTIA is the international organization of the wireless communications industry for both wireless carriers and manufacturers. Membership in the association covers all Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") providers, including cellular, personal communications services, enhanced specialized mobile radio, and mobile satellite services.

See Public Notice dated November 13, 1995 (requesting comments on the Alliance's Petition be filed in CC Docket No. 94-102).

The Alliance describes itself as "a collective of diverse public safety, non-profit, disability and consumer concerns." With one exception, no emergency number or public safety interests are identified as Alliance members. The Alliance states that the National Emergency Number Association - California Chapter is a member. As discussed below, the position of the Alliance is directly counter to the stated position of the National Emergency Number Association, the National Association of State Nine One One

telephone service may be denied or unavailable when the cellular carrier has programmed its system to block 911 calls "from transient or non-system subscribers," and asks the Commission: (1) to amend Section 22.911(b) of the Rules to require cellular carriers to promptly connect all 911 calls without precondition; and (2) to amend Section 22.933 of the Rules to require that all newly constructed mobile units be equipped to select the strongest signal whenever a 911 call is placed.

While CTIA and its members strongly support the goal of this proceeding, that is the broadened availability of enhanced 911 ("E911") services to users of wireless telecommunications, the two Alliance proposals, if adopted, actually would thwart this goal. Therefore, CTIA urges the Commission to deny the Petition.

Administrators, and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International in this docket.

See Petition at 4.

Although the Alliance urges the Commission "to fix today's 911 cellular access problems and tomorrow's PCS products," Petition at 2, the Petition does not address PCS (and the absence of Commission-mandated technical specifications to insure compatibility of PCS mobile and base stations).

I. There Is No Basis for the Commission to Require CMRS Carriers to Connect 911 Calls.

Alliance asks the Commission to amend its rules to address cellular system blocking of 911 calls "from transient or non-system subscribers." While the Petition makes no attempt to justify its request, Alliance's original comments in this proceeding shed some light on the basis of the request.

In its Comments, Alliance took issue with the Commission's proposal to require CMRS providers to provide 911 service only to "service-initialized" users and "subscribed-to" roamers. The Alliance Comments observed that "the blocking of unsubscribed 911 access is a current practice, and asserted that "cellular carriers are beginning to take steps which would make it virtually impossible for 'roamers' to obtain 911 service. Although the Petition lumps these two very different situations into a single category, the provision of 911 service to non-

See Petition at 4.

Comments of Consumers First and the Ad Hoc Alliance for Public Access to 911, CC Docket No. 94-102 (filed January 9, 1995) ("Alliance Comments").

See Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhance 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 9 FCC Rcd 6170 (1994) ("NPRM") at para. 41; Alliance Comments at 2.

Alliance Comments at 3.

activated phones and the provision of service to roamers are independent issues.

A. Carriers and the Public Safety Community Support the Commission's Proposal to Limit 911 Service to "Service Initialized" Users.

The Petition completely ignores the record already developed in this proceeding in support of the Commission's proposal to limit 911 service to "service initialized" users. Both carriers and the public safety community are unanimous in their support for the Commission's proposal to limit 911 service to "service initialized" users, albeit for different reasons.

The Association of Public-Safety Communications
Officials-International, the National Emergency Number
Association, and the National Association of State Nine One
One Administrators (the "Joint Commenters") filed Joint
Comments in this docket which state with respect to 911
availability that "there may be practical limitations
requiring a wireless unit to be 'service initialized' and we
accept those limitations." In fact, "re-ring/call back"
capability is a major priority of the Joint Commenters and
their individual members. Since only a service

Joint Comments at 36.

See Joint Comments at 43-44; see also, Comments of National Emergency Number Association, North Carolina Chapter, at 2 ("the inability to obtain the telephone number of wireless telephone users when they dial 9-1-1 robs our Public Safety Telecommunicators of another critical piece of

initialized phone will have a valid and unique Mobile

Identifier Number ("MIN") which a PSAP can use to re-ring

(call back) a 911 caller, the provision of re-ring/call back

capability requires a valid and unique telephone number.

As the Commission knows, manufacturers ship cellular mobile units with factory set Electronic Serial Numbers and but with no pre-set MIN. The MIN is assigned by the carrier when the customer activates the phone. Thus, a brand new unactivated phone will have no MIN associated with it, making it impossible for the PSAP to re-ring the caller. On the other hand, if a mobile unit previously had been service-initiated, the unit will contain a MIN. Re-ringing that MIN might misdirect the call to the original

information. Without that telephone number computerized display, we find ourselves unable to call the wireless telephone user back to obtain more information about an emergency. In a Law Enforcement scenario, it also prevents investigators from being able to recontact victims, witnesses, and sometimes even criminals themselves."); U.S. Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard, Comments of the Interagency Committee on Search and Rescue, at 7 ("a call-back capability would allow rescue forces or emergency service providers to talk to the victim during the rescue. This can contribute greatly to the chances of survival. This capability can also assist in guiding responders to the site and apprise them of the current situation."); Comments of Oregon State Police Emergency Management Division, at 5 ("we need the ability to call the caller back"); Comments of the Texas Advisory Commission on State Emergency Communications, at 9-10 (TX-ACSEC agrees ... that a user must have the ability to reach emergency services from any service initialized mobile radio handset.... *** Re-ring/call back is an extremely vital feature of enhanced 9-1-1 that must be required for wireless service").

subscriber. For example, if a cellular customer sells an automobile with an installed mobile unit and does not physically remove the mobile unit from the car, but rather deactivates the phone by transferring the MIN to a new mobile unit (linking the original MIN with the new mobile unit's unique ESN), a PSAP calling back a 911 caller who had used the original (and now unactivated) phone could be directed instead to the subscriber with the valid MIN/ESN pair.¹²

As the Joint Commenters, and their individual members, advised the Commission in their Comments, re-ring/call back is needed to facilitate the rendering of assistance and emergency service. 13 Just as important, it is needed to thwart hoaxes and false alarms. As the attached newspaper article from the November 12, 1995 Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch makes clear, this is not a hypothetical concern, but a very real threat. 14 As the Times-Dispatch reported, a 20 year old man recently used a cloned cellular phone to

No one ever has proposed passing both the MIN and ESN to a PSAP. Even if the necessary network protocols could be developed, and the landline network was able to transmit the additional digits, maintaining the confidentiality of valid MIN/ESN pairs is critical to the security of a wireless network.

¹³ See n. 11, supra.

[&]quot;Cellular Firms Help Police Find Cloned Numbers," Richmond *Times-Dispatch* (Nov. 12, 1995). Attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

make a series of bomb threats by calling 911. Because the man was using a cloned cellular phone, the carrier and the PSAP could not identify the caller. As a result, it took a week to locate the caller, during which time the false bomb threat calls went through a lull and then intensified, tying up limited 911 capacity and shutting down numerous businesses. By granting the Alliance Petition, the FCC would open this scenario to anyone with access to a non-service activated cellular mobile unit.

If the Commission seeks to respond favorably to the expressed need of the Joint Commenters for re-ring/call back capability, and discourage hoaxes and false alarms, then the Commission must reject Alliance's request concerning the provision of 911 service to non-service activated mobile units.

B. There Is No Basis to Mandate the Provision of "Roamer" Access.

In its initial comments, Alliance asserted that "cellular carriers are beginning to take steps which would make it virtually impossible for "roamers" to obtain 911 service." There is no basis for this claim. While CTIA is aware of instances where carrier installation of antifraud software has had the unintended effect of

Alliance Comments at 3. In support of this claim, Alliance cited a single *USA Today* newspaper article.

restricting "roamer" customers' access to 911, these instances have been transitory exceptions, not the rule. CTIA's members support the provision of 911 access to all service-initiated CMRS customers, including customers who are roaming.

Alliance provides absolutely no evidence to indicate that denial of roamer access to 911 is a problem. original comments, Alliance referenced a news report in USA Today concerning the temporary cessation of the roaming agreement between the non-wireline cellular systems in Washington, D.C. and New York City. Based seemingly on this single report, Alliance jumped to the false conclusion that access to 911 service had been denied to Washington, D.C. customers roaming in New York City. In fact, provision of 911 access to roamer customers in New York City was unaffected and remained in place throughout the temporary suspension of the intercarrier roamer agreement reported in USA Today. This is because the provision of 911 access is controlled by the serving carrier (in this case, AT&T Wireless in New York City) and is not linked to the existence of a valid roaming agreement.

Nearly a year ago, Alliance claimed roamer access would become a major problem. Alliance now has petitioned the Commission for a sweeping rule change based solely on its own mistaken association of roamer access with access for

non-service-activated mobile units. In fact, Alliance has failed to provide a single example of any actual problem in the provision of roamer access, and has provided no other basis for the Commission to conclude that the denial of roamer access is an issue requiring Commission action.¹⁶

absence of governmental mandates to promote the availability of 911 access from service-initiated CMRS phones. CTIA believes the Commission is correct to recognize that 911 availability must be tied to the activated status of the mobile phone — otherwise the phone will not have a valid MIN, and without a valid MIN, PSAPs will be denied rering/callback capability. Furthermore, the lack of a valid MIN invites frivolous use that can harass legitimate businesses, needlessly risk the public safety, and actually impede access to 911 services. In addition, nearly a full year after the Alliance first advised the Commission of its "expectation" that cellular carriers would "drastically increase" blocking of 911 access, 17 Alliance has failed to

The Commission's rules already require cellular system licensees to provide service upon request to all cellular subscribers in good standing, including roamers. See 47 CFR § 22,901. In the absence of compatibility standards, expanding this rule to PCS would be problematic.

Alliance Comments at 3.

provide any evidence to support its request for Commission action.

II. There Is No Basis to Require Mobile Units to Select the Strongest Signal for 911 Calls.

The Petition also asks the Commission to amend Section 22.933 of its Rules to require that all newly constructed mobile units be equipped to select the strongest signal whenever a 911 call is placed. This proposal reflects a naive misunderstanding of how CMRS networks dynamically control power levels and hand-off calls to provide reliable communications, and if adopted would lead to more dropped calls and less reliable emergency communications.

CMRS mobile units and base stations constantly monitor and adjust their signal strength as the user moves towards and away from any one base station. Such measurements are required both to minimize interference and to hand-off a call as the user moves from one cell to another. The use of dynamic power control permits wireless systems to provide

As a consequence, a "strong" base station signal (indicating close proximity to the cell site) will correspond to a low mobile unit transmitter power level.

See generally, Reference Manual for Telecommunications Engineering, Second Edition (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1994) at 1198 et seq. ("the mobile unit samples signal levels of all appropriate setup channels so it can respond through the cell site offering the highest signal level").

reliable communications over a range of signal strengths.²⁰

If there is sufficient signal strength to initiate a call,
the CMRS system will monitor and adjust the mobile unit's
power level to insure a reliable connection.²¹ The Petition
seeks to create a solution for what is not a problem.

While CMRS networks are designed to provide reliable communications over a broad range of power levels, they are not designed to hand-off calls between networks within a market as Alliance seemingly desires. Under the rule proposed by Alliance, 911 calls would be handed off between carriers as the mobile unit moved towards and away from the strongest signals.²²

Wireless networks are carefully engineered to maximize frequency reuse (and spectral efficiency) while minimizing interference and dropped calls. Existing cellular networks

See, Section 2.1.2.2, "Cellular System Mobile Station-Land Station Compatibility Specification" (April 1981 Ed.), OET Bulletin No. 53.

If the home carrier's signal is inadequate or the customer is out of range of the home system, the Commission's existing rules for cellular service require all mobile units to permit "roaming" on the "non-preferred" cellular band. See generally, Sections 2.3.9, 2.3.10, 2.6.2.1, and 2.6.2.5 "Cellular System Mobile Station-Land Station Compatibility Specification" (April 1981 Ed.), OET Bulletin No. 53. Thus, no rule change is required.

The rule proposed by Alliance would make even less sense if it required 911 calls be directed to the strongest signal only at the time the call was initiated since signal strength rises and falls as the mobile unit approaches and travels away from the original cell.

are not designed to dynamically hand-off calls between "A" and "B" block systems.²³ Moreover, a requirement to hand-off 911 calls to the strongest channel could trigger unnecessary hand-offs as the mobile unit moved through two completely different sets of base stations, even if the caller remained wholly within the coverage area of the originating base station. Finally, Alliance's sole focus is on the mobile unit rather than the switch; in fact, it is the switch, not the mobile unit, that controls the actual hand-off.

The Commission should reject Alliance's proposal to require mobile units to select the strongest signal for 911 calls because the proposed cure is much worse than the imagined disease.

There is no present capability to hand-off calls between cellular and PCS systems, simply because there are no dual band phones. In addition, intersystem hand-offs between PCS systems will not be possible if, as appears likely, PCS licensees deploy single mode digital phones using incompatible digital standards.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should deny the Alliance Petition and reject the proposed changes to the Commission's rules.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 15, 1995

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BY MICHAEL MARTZ

inip-prosident residente

TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

wen the vocitional sector a A pirated cellular telephone numper was the weapon for a malicious calling spree that spun out of con-

The calls began on Halloween night with a bomb threat to the cellular 911 emergency line. Taunting and abusive, the 911 calls continued intermittently until Wednesday morning, when the Virginia State Police arrested a 20-year-old Henrico County man.

The arrest was a relief to local cellular telephone companies. which have been fighting a rising problem with fraud, particularly involving stolen or cloned cellular for handling all cellular 911 calls numbers.

"We have seen a marked increase in cloning fraud. . . . It's definitely spiked up," said Ralph Martinez, GTE Mobilnet Inc.'s general manager in central Virginia.

In the week after the first Halloween call, a Richmond-area cellular telephone company used a combination of high-technology and human patience to help authorities find the man.

Besthoff, unwittingly had demonwireless communications and the increasing sophistication of fraudbusting techniques used by the cellular telephone industry.

"We threw just about every trick in the book at him," said Don Kitchen, network manager for GTE.

Usually, the motive for cloning is economic. Cellular bandits use stolen numbers to make expensive be cloned, or stolen, in various telephone calls. Customers don't ways. The thief needs the number know they've been robbed until they receive their monthly bill.

The good news is that subscribers don't have to pay for calls they foot the bill. Last year, fraud cost the cellular industry an estimated

\$482 million, or more than \$1.3 mil lion a day

n a day. "We eat the cost," Martinez said. This is not a victimless crime.

give that

Besthoff's alleged motive was different. "This guy was just being a jerk," said Miles Turner, a state police dispatcher who handled many of the calls.

However, Turner said the 911 calls were no less costly to the cellular company, law enforcement authorities and businesses that were shut down because of bomb threats.

The worst thing is, somebody who has a legitimate emergency might not be able to get through. he said.

The state police has three lines made in 24 counties and five cities.

The problem was not new for GTE. The company's expertise made it a key player in the law enforcement probe, which included the U.S. Secret Service and Federal Communications Commission, as well as the state police.

"If we hadn't been involved, they probably wouldn't have been able to pull it off," Kitchen said. "They didn't even know what the phone The alleged caller, Adam Martin number was until we got involved."

State police contacted GTE on strated both the vulnerability of Nov. 1, the morning after the first call. Kitchen's staff looked at every 911 call made around the time of the bomb threat. They determined that it was a number for a customer in Williamsburg.

> "The legitimate user was unaware of anything that was going on," Kitchen said.

Cellular telephone numbers can and the electronic serial number assigned to a phone. The phone number allegedly stolen by Besthoff was partially cloned because the didn't make. Cellular companies electronic serial number of the call-

lice find cloned numbers

identified the number of the caller. who could call only 911 without the proper serial number.

A professional thief has to clone. both numbers to complete calls. Sometimes the thief gets the numbers by stealing the phone itself, and other times by buying black-market chips for reprogramming phones.

Most often, however, the numbers cellular number and serial number the phone, even when the handset isn't being used. The signal is necessary for the cellular network to locate tify it and effectively shut down the the phone to complete calls.

"Our belief is that the cloning out?" there is being done with electronic devices," said Scott Besselievre,

general manager of the CellularOne V. CLONE FROM BAGE E1 41 3 the franchise in the Richmond area.

er didn't match the subscriber's. The franchise, owned primarily by That was one way GTB officials BellSouth Corp., hasn't noticed the rise in cellular fraud that GTE has seen. "I don't know if it's getting any worse," said R. Kent Meske, director of sales and marketing. "It doesn't go away."

However, CellularOne also is using increasingly sophisticated methods of fighting fraud. The company has computer equipment and software that can detect an irregular callare stolen from thin air. Electronic ing pattern immediately — for examdevices are available that can read a ple, if the same number is used to make a call in Virginia and a call in from the electronic signal emitted by New York City at roughly the same time.

"If there is any fraud, we can idenroaming number immediately." Besselievre said.

Getting away with cellular telephone fraud isn't easy because the

thieves leave a trail.

"We know where, when, and who they're calling with the cloned phone," Martinez said at GTE.

To prove the point, GTE helped federal and state authorities find the path that allegedly led to Besthoff. After identifying the number, the company set a series of traps for the caller.

The caller didn't try to call anyone but 911, even though the company had given him an open line to use with other numbers. The investigation went through a long lull, but the calls resumed on Tuesday night and intensified the next morning.

Company and law enforcement officials said they tracked the calls to Besthoff, near his Chamberlayne Farms home. It took only seven minutes from the time the call began for the authorities to find Besthoff. Turner said.

"It really is not that hard to catch

people when they do this stuff,' Turner said.

The state police arrested him about 9 a.m. on Wednesday, and charged him with extortion, making a bomb threat, possessing stolen goods, conspiring to commit a felony and using profane language over a telephone.

"It's an ongoing investigation," Turner said, "I think he's looking at several more charges before it's all over with.'

Besthoff remained in the Henrico iail on Friday in lieu of \$65,000 bond. pending a court appearance scheduled for Nov. 17..

Cloning fraud is a federal felony that carries up to \$50,000 in fines and 15 years in prison. The practice also violates FCC regulations against counterfeiting telephone numbers.

"It is a serious problem," Kitchen said at GTE, "and we're taking a hard-line approach with it."

SUMDAY: NOVEMBER 12, 1995

Richmond Eimes-Dispaich

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Brenda K. Pennington, hereby certify that on this 15th day of December, 1995, copies of the foregoing Comments of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association were served either by hand-delivery or by first-class mail upon the following parties:

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